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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa -- The Auditor General of Canada has agreed to be the independent outside auditor stipulated by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission as a condition of licence for the English-language news and information channel recently awarded to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, it was announced today by CBC President Pierre Juneau.

Auditor General Kenneth M. Dye was responding to a request by Mr. Juneau for audit and reporting services that would enable the CRTC and the Canadian public to obtain independent outside assurance that the CBC maintains effective measures to ensure that the funds allocated to the Corporation through parliamentary appropriation are not used to finance any of the incremental costs of the new channel.

During the CRTC hearing regarding the CBC application, the Corporation committed itself to implement cost separation mechanisms and financial management that would provide effective and fully verifiable separation between the funding for the new service and that of the existing services.

"The CBC is thoroughly committed to meeting all the requirements outlined by the CRTC for the operation of an all-news-and-information channel. I am pleased that the Auditor General, who is the CBC's appointed auditor, has agreed to bring the competence, credibility and independence of his Office to certify that the Corporation meets the financial requirements determined by the CRTC," said Mr. Juneau.

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